

“o.T. (Ausstellung)”
cyanotype on cotton
850x215 cm

The work “o.T.(Ausstellung)” is part of an ample series of “architectural cyanotypes”. Architects during the second half of the 19th century used cyanotypes to get multiples of their drawings. This historical detail inspired me to create photograms of parts of existing architecture. The role of cyanotypes, also called blueprints, is simplistic: to copy, reproduce, or duplicate an image that already exists. Given the finite and elementary function of the cyanotype in architecture, it becomes interesting to consider how a medium with such a banal purpose impacts design.

I call the technique “studio friendly”, because you don` t need necessarily a dark room to work with. The whole process is quite uncomplicated and its possible to produce works in a larger scale. The exposure time is quite long, compared to conventional photography. There are environmental factors that change ad infinitum as time passes—UV shifts, cloud cover increases or decreases, the position of the sun in the sky is moving—so the chroma of each cyanotype is slightly different, or sometimes vastly different, than the last based on that process.

Those factors are decisive how the result will look at the end. Its nearly impossible to forecast and control the whole process. The work which is shown at the exhibition “Das Anliegen” at Salzburger Kunstverein, is a cyanotype picturing the entire wall of my studio, in this case an old barn, where I was working during the summer. I exposed the canvas for several days, always considering that the circumstances of the ambient conditions will influence the final product. The mapped lines, which describe the negative space of the wooden slats used in the traditional architecture of the barn, are documenting the elapse of time and the transition of the sun during the exposure. The outcome of the color in the chromatic scale of the blurred lines has always a different intensity and adds a certain kind of narration in terms of process to the work. In this work my primary impetus is to bring the place of artistic production into the exhibition space. I tried to depict the methodology of the medium and its consequent process as core and directing moment of artistic creativity.

The title “o.T. (Ausstellung)” which is composed of the two words “Stall” (barn) and “Ausstellung” (exhibition), is a verbal extension of the principal idea and adds a semantic layer.